

CLAIMS

1. A method of enabling the creation and use of a photo album, the method including the steps of:

5 providing a photo album user with at least one photo album form printed on a surface, the photo album form containing information relating to a photo album activity and including coded data indicative of an identity of the photo album form and of at least one reference point of the photo album form;

10 receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device operated by said user, said indicating data regarding the identity of the photo album form and a position of the sensing device relative to the photo album form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the photo album form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and

15 identifying in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the photo album activity.

2. The method of claim 1 in which said at least one parameter relating to the photo album activity is associated with at least one zone of the photo album form, and in which the method includes identifying, in the computer system and from the zone relative to
20 which the sensing device is located, said at least one parameter.

3. The method of claim 2 which includes the steps of:

25 receiving, in the computer system, data regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the photo album form, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the photo album form, using at least some of the coded data; and

identifying, in the computer system and from said movement being at least partially within said at least one zone, said at least one parameter of the photo album activity.

4. A method of enabling the creation and use of a photo album, the method including the steps of:

providing a user with at least one photo album form printed on a surface, the photo album form containing information relating to a photo album activity and
5 including coded data indicative of at least one parameter of the photo album activity;

receiving, in a computer system, data from a sensing device operated by said user regarding said at least one parameter and regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the photo album form, the sensing device, when moved relative to the photo album form, sensing the data regarding said at least one parameter using at least some of
10 the coded data and generating the data regarding its own movement relative to the photo album form; and

interpreting, in the computer system, said movement of the sensing device as it relates to said at least one parameter.

15 5. The method of claim 1 or claim 4, in which the parameter is an action parameter of the photo album activity, the method including effecting, in the computer system, an operation in respect of the action parameter.

6. The method of claim 5, in which the action parameter of the photo album
20 activity is selected from the group comprising:

creating a photo album;
selecting an existing photo album;
deselecting an existing photo album;
selecting an existing photo album page;
25 deselecting an existing photo album page;
inserting a page into a photo album;
moving a photo album page;
copying a photo album page;

zooming a view of a photo album page;
applying a background grid to a view of a photo album page;
updating a view of a photo album page;
inserting a photograph on a photo album page;
5 editing the appearance of a photograph on a photo album page;
arranging at least one photograph on a photo album page;
deleting a photograph from a photo album page;
converting handwritten annotation to electronic text;
listing available photo frames;
10 listing available photo album page background textures;
printing a photo album page; and
editing an individual photograph.

7. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the parameter is an option parameter
15 of the photo album activity, the method including identifying, in the computer system,
that the user has entered a hand-drawn mark by means of a sensing device and effecting,
in the computer system, an operation associated with the option parameter.

8. The method of claim 7 in which the option parameter is associated with at least
20 one of:
selecting a photo album;
selecting a photo album page;
a graphic applicable to a photograph; and
a caption associated with a photograph.

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9. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the parameter is a text parameter of

the photo album activity, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the user has entered handwritten text data by means of the sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the text parameter.

5 10. The method of claim 9 which includes converting, in the computer system, the handwritten text data to computer text.

11. The method of claim 9 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:

10 a photo album name;
a photo album page name; and
an annotation associated with a photograph.

15 12. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the parameter is an authorization parameter of the photo album activity, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the user has entered a handwritten signature by means of the sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the authorization parameter.

20 13. The method of claim 12 which includes verifying, in the computer system, that the signature is that of the user.

14. The method of claim 13 in which the authorization parameter is associated with accessing a selected photograph.

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15. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the parameter is a graphical parameter of the photo album activity, the method including identifying, in the computer system, that the user has entered hand-drawn graphical information by means of the

sensing device and effecting, in the computer system, an operation associated with the graphical parameter.

16. The method of claim 15 in which the graphical parameter is associated with an annotation associated with a photograph.

17. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which at least one of the one or more photo album forms contains information relating to at least one of:

an identity of the photo album user;

10 the date of the photo album activity;

the time of the photo album activity;

a photo album name;

a photo album page count;

a photo album page number;

15 a photograph image; and

a printed photo album page.

18. The method of claim 1 or claim 4, the surface being a paper page, the method including printing the page on demand.

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19. The method of claim 18 which includes printing the page and, at the same time that the page is printed, printing the coded data on the page.

20. The method of claim 19 which includes printing the coded data to be
25 substantially invisible in the visible spectrum.

21. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 which includes retaining a retrievable record

of each photo album form generated, the photo album form being retrievable using its identity as contained in its coded data.

22. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the photo album form comprises at least one printed photo album page.

23. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the sensing device contains an identification means which imparts a unique identity to the sensing device and identifies it as being associated with a particular user and in which the method includes monitoring, in the computer system, said identity.

24. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 which includes providing all required information relating to the photo album activity on the at least one photo album form, to eliminate the need for a separate display device.

25. The method of claim 1 or claim 4 in which the photo album form is provided on multiple pages and in which the method includes binding the pages.

26. A system for enabling the creation and use of a photo album, the system including:

at least one photo album form printed on a surface, the photo album form containing information relating to a photo album activity and including coded data indicative of an identity of the photo album form and of at least one reference point of the photo album form; and

a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device operated by a user involved in the photo album activity; said indicating data regarding the identity of the photo album form and a position of the sensing device relative to the photo album form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the photo album form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data, said

computer system including means for identifying, from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the photo album activity.

27. The system of claim 26 in which said at least one parameter relating to the photo album activity is associated with at least one zone of the photo album form.

28. The system of claim 26 including the sensing device, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the photo album form, using at least some of the coded data.

10 29. A system for enabling the creation and use of a photo album, the system including:

at least one photo album form printed on a surface, the photo album form containing information relating to a photo album activity and including coded data indicative of at least one parameter of the photo album activity; and

15 a computer system for receiving data from a sensing device operated by the user involved in the photo album activity, said data regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the photo album form, and for interpreting said movement of the sensing device as it relates to said at least one parameter, the sensing device, when moved relative to the photo album form, sensing the data regarding said at least one
20 parameter using at least some of the coded data, and generating the data regarding its own movement relative to the photo album form.

30. The system of claim 29 in which said at least one parameter relating to the photo album activity is associated with at least one zone of the photo album form.

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31. The system of claim 30 including the sensing device.

32. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which said at least one parameter of the

photo album activity is selected from the group comprising an action parameter of the photo album activity, an option parameter of the photo album activity, a text parameter of the photo album activity, an authorization parameter of the photo album activity, and a graphical parameter of the photo album activity.

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33. The system of claim 32 in which the action parameter of the photo album activity is selected from the group comprising:

creating a photo album;

selecting an existing photo album;

10 deselecting an existing photo album;

selecting an existing photo album page;

deselecting an existing photo album page;

inserting a page into a photo album;

moving a photo album page;

15 copying a photo album page;

zooming a view of a photo album page;

applying a background grid to a view of a photo album page;

updating a view of a photo album page;

inserting a photograph on a photo album page;

20 editing the appearance of a photograph on a photo album page;

arranging at least one photograph on a photo album page;

deleting a photograph from a photo album page;

converting handwritten annotation to electronic text;

listing available photo frames;

25 listing available photo album page background textures;

printing a photo album page; and

editing an individual photograph.

34. The system of claim 32 in which the option parameter is associated with at least one of:
- 5 selecting a photo album;
selecting a photo album page;
a graphic applicable to a photograph; and
a caption associated with a photograph.
- 10 35. The system of claim 32 in which the text parameter is associated with at least one of:
- a photo album name;
a photo album page name; and
an annotation associated with a photograph.
- 15 36. The system of claim 32 in which the authorization parameter is associated with accessing a selected photograph.
37. The system of claim 32 in which the graphical parameter is associated with an
20 annotation associated with a photograph.
38. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which the sensing device includes a marking nib.
- 25 39. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which the sensing device contains an identification means which imparts a unique identity to the sensing device and identifies it as being associated with a particular user.

40. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which the surface is a printed paper page, and in which the system includes a printer for printing the photo album form on the paper page on demand.

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41. The system of claim 40 in which the printer prints the coded data at the same time as printing the photo album form on the paper page.

42. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which the coded data is substantially
10 invisible in the visible spectrum.

43. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 in which the photo album form comprises at least one printed photo album page.

15 44. The system of claim 26 or claim 29 which includes a database for keeping a retrievable record of each photo album form generated, each photo album form being retrievable by using its identity as included in its coded data.

45. The system of claim 40 in which, to cater for a photo album form printed on
20 multiple pages, the printer includes a binding means for binding the pages.